

ANIMAL KEEPERS' FORUM

FEBRUARY 2010



The Journal of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.

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36th Anniversary - 1974 - 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

(Revised April 2009)

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.

The mission of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. is to advance excellence in the animal keeping profession, foster effective communication beneficial to animal care, support deserving conservation projects, and promote the preservation of our natural resources and animal life.

This month's cover features a drawing of an Okapi (*Okapi johnstoni*) named Jamal, a gentle and shy 14-year-old that came to the Los Angeles Zoo from Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida in June of 2005. This artwork is by Marie Vester, a Docent and Research Volunteer at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Garden. Jamal is on loan from the San Diego Wild Animal Park, and SSP® is now recommending he be paired with a breeding female and he is being crate-trained for that move. The Okapi is the only known relative of the giraffe, although it looks like a combination of a horse, zebra and giraffe. The Okapi was identified as a new species in 1901 by British explorer, naturalist and author, Sir Harry H. Johnston. It is one of the world's rarest animals in captivity. The shy, secretive and diurnal Okapi is found in central Africa in dense, tropical rainforests. It lives near streams and rivers at altitudes of 1,650 to 3,300 feet. Little is known about the behavior of this species in the wild because of their solitary nature and the dense, dark forests where they live. They move noiselessly through wooded areas, feeding by day as they follow a well-trodden network of trails that link feeding grounds. Their diet includes shade-loving plants, fruits, ferns and fungi. Interestingly, many of the plant species fed upon by the Okapi are known to be poisonous to humans. They possess a foot-long blue tongue. Unlike giraffe, this species is not found in herds, but come together only for breeding purposes. The gestation period lasts about 440 days, and females retreat into dense forest vegetation to give birth. Newborn Okapis weigh 14-30 kg at birth. They are precocial and may nurse after 21 minutes and stand after just 30 minutes. Weaning occurs at about six months, although young may continue to suckle for more than a year. Young males begin developing horns at one year of age, and both males and females reach adult size at about three years. The Okapi's zebra-like markings give the animal great camouflage in the partial sunlight of their dense habitat. This coloration may also help the young Okapis follow their mothers through the darkness and adult animals find each other. Thanks, Marie!

Articles sent to *Animal Keepers' Forum* will be reviewed by the editorial staff for publication. Articles of a research or technical nature will be submitted to one or more of the zoo professionals who serve as referees for *AKF*. No commitment is made to the author, but an effort will be made to publish articles as soon as possible. Lengthy articles may be separated into monthly installments at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit material without consultation unless approval is requested in writing by the author. Materials submitted will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, appropriately-sized envelope. Telephone, fax or email contributions of late-breaking news or last-minute insertions are accepted as space allows. Phone 785-273-9149; FAX (785) 273-1980; email is akfeditor@zk.kscoxmail.com< If you have questions about submission guidelines, please contact the Editor.

**Deadline for each regular issue is the 10th of the preceding month.
Dedicated issues may have separate deadline dates and will be noted by the editor.**

Articles printed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *AKF* staff or the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Publication does not indicate endorsement by the Association.

Items in this publication may be reprinted providing credit to this publication is given and a copy of the reprinted material is forwarded to the editor. If an article is shown to be separately copyrighted by the author(s), then permission must be sought from the author(s). Reprints of material appearing in this journal may be ordered from the editor. Regular back issues are available for \$4.00 each. Special issues may cost more.

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**AAZK website Address: www.aazk.org
BFR Website: <http://aazkbfr.org>**

Scoops & Scuttlebutt



Avoid a Late Fee - 2010 Recharter Deadline Approaching

All AAZK Chapters are reminded that the absolute deadline for return of 2010 AAZK Chapter Recharter Packets is **1 March**. Failure of a Chapter to return their recharter materials by that date will cause the Chapter to incur a \$250 late fee, in addition to all other fees. Rechartering packet information was sent electronically via email to the email address your Chapter provided to the Administrative Office in 2009. These emails were sent the first week in January. **NOTE:** If your Chapter has changed its email contact address since you completed your 2009 recharter forms, you need to notify Barbara Manspeaker immediately (aazkoffice@zk.scozmail.com). If you have questions about completing your Recharter Packet, please contact Barbara at the email above or by calling 785-273-9149. Completion of recharter materials by every AAZK Chapter is a requirement by the Internal Revenue Service in order for the Association to maintain its 501 (c)(3) nonprofit exemption. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Time to Nominate Your Peers for AAZK Awards

Nominations are being accepted for 2010 for the various awards given out by AAZK, Inc. each year at our National Conference. This year's awards will be presented at the conference in Philadelphia, PA (August 22-26, 2010). Award nominations should be submitted to the AAZK Awards Committee, Chaired by Janet McCoy from the Oregon Zoo.

Information about these awards, including criteria for nomination and the required forms for submitting your nominations are available on the AAZK website (www.aazk.org) - look under the Committees link. Please be aware that nominations for all awards must be received by **1 May 2010**. Completed nomination forms and any accompanying documentation materials should be sent to: Janet McCoy, AAZK Awards Chair, 846 NW 170th Dr., Beaverton, OR 97006.

The AAZK Awards include:

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award
- Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education
- Certificate of Excellence in Exhibit Design Renovation
- Mazuri® Animal Nutrition Award
- Jean M. Hromadka AAZK Excellence in Animal Care Award
- The Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement - AAZK Professional of the Year
- The AAZK Chapter of the Year Award

IMPORTANT NOTICE for all Members with PayPal Accounts

All AAZK members who use a PayPal account for renewing memberships or making purchases on the AAZK website are please asked to make sure that the address in their PayPal profile is their current mailing address. If this address is not current, your monthly *Animal Keepers' Forum*, your membership card, or any merchandise purchases you make on the website will be sent to an incorrect address and will not be forwarded to a newer address. Please take a moment and double check your PayPal profile to make sure it displays your current mailing address.

Correction from the AKF Editor

In the December 2009 issue of *Animal Keepers' Forum* (pg 509) an article on the 2009 Arctic Ambassador Leadership Camp was published. At the conclusion of the article was a listing of keepers who attended this event. Angela Johnson of the Louisville Zoo was inadvertently left off this list. Our apologies to Angela for this omission.

Volunteer Opportunities in AAZK

AAZK has lots of opportunities for you to get involved in the Association. Listed below are areas where we need assistance and the contact person who can get you involved.

Grants Committee

Seeking additional members to review CPR and Research Grants

To get involved, contact Shelly Roach at shelly.roach@columbuszoo.org

Animal Keepers' Forum

We are seeking someone to help coordinate the column "People Skills for Animal People"

We are looking for original cover art and photos for the AKF.

We are always seeking papers related to the animal care profession for AKF.

We are seeking volunteers for book reviewers

We are seeking submissions for the following columns:

ATC Training Tales, Enrichment Options, Conservation Station

To get involved, contact Susan Chan at akfeditor@zk.kscoxmail.com

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee seeks a new Chairperson.

To get involved, send a cover letter and resumé to Bob Cisneros at zoobob2@cox.net

The deadline to apply for this position is **15 March 2010**.

SAVE THE DATE! AZA Orangutan SSP® Workshop

Theme: "Conservation & Husbandry Innovations for the New Decade" ~ September 27-30, 2010 – Denver Zoo, Denver, CO.

Climb Up to a Higher Branch at the 4th Annual Orangutan SSP® Husbandry Workshop! - Focused on the care and management of orangutans, the workshop will bring together orangutan caregivers and managers, researchers, and field biologists to share the most current information on husbandry, conservation, and emergent issues pertaining to captive and wild populations of orangutans. Workshop registration fee is \$125. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the Orangutan SSP® Masterplan meetings which will take place on Sunday, September 26, 2010. For additional information contact Ronda Schwetz at rschwetz@denverzoo.org. Online registration will be available soon at www.denverzoo.org.



Pre-Conference Trip to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Sunday, September 26—more details soon!



*Starting Planning
Now!*

July 18 - 24, 2010

In Memorium ~ Lutz Ruhe ~ AAZK Benefactor

Lutz Ruhe, husband of Donna Ruhe, passed away peacefully at his home in Sanibel, Florida, on December 17, 2009, after a long struggle with congestive heart failure.

The care and preservation of animals was Lutz' passion in life. His vast knowledge was gained from hands-on experience: catching animals in Africa and other parts of the world; transporting them by ship and plane to zoos all over the world; and operating children's zoos that allowed children and adults close up and personal interaction with the animals. He was a builder, designer, and a visionary.

Lutz was the fourth child born to Hermann and Christa Franke Ruhe on July 5, 1935, in Hannover, Germany. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Christel Ruhe Wormit, and brothers Hermann and Heiner Ruhe. He was the fourth generation of the prominent firm of Ludwig Ruhe, exotic animal dealer in Alfeld/Leine, Germany. His Great-Grandfather Ludwig Ruhe started the firm as a canary business in the 1840's in Gruenenplan, Germany. In 1865, his grandfather established an office in New



York City under the name of Louis Ruhe, Inc. In 1904, the Ruhe firm acquired Reiche's animal business in Alfeld and the business moved from Gruenenplan to Alfeld. That same year, the Ruhe's bought a "farm" in Queens, NY, to further expand their firm into a world-wide import and export animal business, supplying animals to zoos worldwide. Also, in 1904, a large two-block animal compound was built in Alfeld to accommodate the animals which were collected from all over the world before they were shipped to zoos and parks.

The Ruhe Family firm's branch office in New York City had been managed by their Uncle Heinz Ruhe and in 1953, upon Heinz' death, Lutz and his brother Heiner came to the states to run the branch office. They created a traveling baby zoo in the early 60's which opened with much success in Boston, MA. They were approached by the movie industry to bring the Baby Zoo to the west coast (Van Nuys and Los Angeles.) They partnered with Louis Gobel in 1962 to operate Jungle Land in Thousand Oaks, CA. While there, Lutz supplied animals for movies and TV shows, such as "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Mr. Ed". Later, they moved the mobile Ruhe Baby Zoo to San Francisco where it was a great success. In 1965, the brothers negotiated a contract with the city of Oakland, CA to build and operate a permanent Children's Zoo in Knowland Park. Five years later, they acquired a 300-acre parcel of land and opened Safari World in Coarsegold, CA. In 1973, Lutz rebuilt the City of San Jose's Children's Zoo in Happy Hollow Park and was Director until retiring in 1996.

Following his retirement, he established the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust for the American Association of Zoo Keepers to give awards and grants to deserving members of the association. In addition to his loving wife, Donna, Lutz is survived by nieces Ellen and Gabi Ruhe, and Heidi Grunhagen; nephews Alexander and Hans Wormit; their families and many other relatives and friends

in Germany. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Gerda Ruhe, of Fort Myers and Alfeld, Germany. Other survivors include his three step-children, Mark Blackman (Jan), Teresa Monteith, Patricia Blackman, and three adoring step-grandchildren, Erin Miley, Meggie Miley, and Daniel Decina. All of his family, friends and devoted former employees will remember Lutz with love and respect.

The zoological community will remember Lutz Ruhe not only for his own achievements, but as the last of the dynamic Ruhe Family.

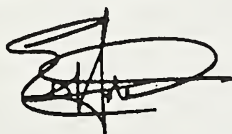
Memorials in Lutz' name may be made to the:

The Lutz Ruhe Education Trust, c/o American Association of Zoo Keepers
(AAZK), Inc., 3601 SW 29th St., Suite 133, Topeka, KS 66614-2054

submitted by Vanesa Rogier, Happy Hollow Zoo, SanJose, CA

AAZK has lost a true friend and gracious supporter of the Association with the passing of Mr. Lutz Ruhe. Mr. Ruhe endowed the Ruhe Education Trust that has supported AAZK member recognition and travel to national conferences. His concern for the professional development and continuing education for all animal keepers continues to allow your Association to provide many avenues of educational funding.

Mr. Ruhe was an "old school" animal person; his life, travels and experiences in the animal business, coupled with his development and mentoring of professionals who continue to foster his principles, will be dearly missed. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and many colleagues.



Ed Hansen
Executive Director
American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.

Lutz and keepers with armload of baby pygmy goats at the San Jose Baby Zoo.



Coming Events

Post Your Coming Events Here
email to: akfeditor@zk.kscoxmail.com

February 21-24, 2010 – Giraffe Professionals Conference to be held in Phoenix, AZ. The International Association of Giraffe Care Professionals is pleased to announce the first-ever conference “All of the Above” devoted to all aspects of giraffe care in captivity. All individuals interested in giraffe and the advancement of their care are invited to join us for this groundbreaking event. Conference is being hosted by the Phoenix Zoo with sponsorship from the Oakland Zoo. For more information, registration or for those who may be interested in presenting at the conference, please visit <http://www.giraffecare.org/>

March 3-6, 2010 - International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) Conference held in Albuquerque, NM. It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2010 IAATE Conference hosted by Avian Ambassadors in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The 2010 IAATE Conference will provide a wonderful opportunity to learn more about avian training, show content, educational messaging, enrichment ideas, avian health and welfare from the leading authorities in the industry. Get ready for Conference Trips, Workshops, Visit the Rio Grande Zoo and Aquarium, and we are bringing back the Training Panel. **Stephen J. Bodio** is our Keynote Speaker. Steve was born and educated in Boston and has lived in Magdalena, New Mexico, for over twenty years. He has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, and especially Asia. His book *Eagle Dreams* is about the Kazakh horsemen of Mongolia. It is the journey to and in writing this book that Steve will talk about with his slide presentation. We also have **Susan G. Friedman, Ph.D** with a featured paper on Saturday morning! Dr. Friedman is a psychology professor at Utah State University with a special interest in applied behavior analysis (ABA), the technology of behavior change so effective with human learners. Over the last decade, she has pioneered the dissemination of ABA principles, procedures and ethical standards to improve the quality of life for animals. For more information visit www.IAATE.org and start planning today!

Go to www.IAATE.org for all registration and conference details. Walk-in registrations will be accepted at the conference. Hotel Reservations must be made by February 14, 2010 to get the special IAATE rate.

April 15 –18, 2010 - 4th Otter Keeper Workshop The Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio will host. This year the focus of the workshop will be expanded to include all of the otters managed under the Otter SSP® North American river otters, Asian small-clawed otters, African clawless, African spot-necked and giant otters. Keepers working with any of the species are welcome to attend. Topics will include: captive management issues, enrichment, training, water quality, health care, nutrition, diet, hand-raising, exhibit design, lots of sharing of information between keepers. A waiting list will be maintained once the

workshop is filled. Due to the popularity of the workshop, priority will be given to first time attendees. Please just one registrant per institution. No refunds after January 15, 2010. Accommodations: A hotel near the Cincinnati Zoo or the Newport Aquarium. Room negotiations are ongoing. Roommates are encouraged. You will be matched if you indicate that you wish to have a roommate. Information can be found on: www.OtterSpotter.com

For more information contact: David Hamilton at Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14617; phone: 585-336-2502; fax: 585-266-5775; email: dhamilton@monroecounty.gov

April 25-30, 2010 - Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA) Annual Conference - In Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of this 10th Anniversary Conference is “Defining a Decade: Animal Management - Past, Present, and Future”.

Conference programming includes: Dr. Vint Virga, a Veterinary Behaviorist as keynote speaker, formal presentations, numerous workshops and seminars, a poster session, and site visits to animal facilities. Registration is open and all conference details can be found at www.theabma.org. The conference will be held at the Hilton Pittsburgh located in downtown Pittsburgh. Mention that you are with the ABMA and receive a special room rate of \$119/night. Reservations must be made by March 23, 2010 at 412-391-4600. Contact Nicole Begley at nicole.begley@aviary.org or 412-323-7235 ext 216 with questions.

May 11-15, 2010 - International Gorilla Workshop – 2010 - Oklahoma City Zoo is excited to host the 2010 International Gorilla Workshop. We hope you'll join us for these informative sessions. Our keynote speakers who are confirmed are Dave Morgan and Charlene Jendry. We are in final confirmation stage to get Dr. Ilana Kutinsky here as our third keynote. The Gorilla Workshop was created to promote and improve husbandry, management and conservation of gorillas. It is necessary to collaborate with colleagues to better provide for and understand gorillas in our care. The 2010 Gorilla Workshop will include a number of topics with an emphasis on multi-male and bachelor groups, as well as innovative and best practices in gorilla husbandry. The deadline for abstracts is 10 February 2010.

Abstracts must contain the following:

- Author's name, affiliation, address, e-mail address and phone number
- Title of paper
- Concise description of paper not to exceed 500 words (single space)
- On a separate page please provide a concise bio of the author/presenter

Suggested Topics (1 full day will be devoted to each

main topic): Innovations and best practices in gorilla husbandry; Retro-fitting existing cages; Innovations in exhibit and holding design to facilitate husbandry; Philosophy driven husbandry programs - What's yours and why does it work for your facility?; How to promote mother-rearing; Surrogate programs;; Behavioral husbandry - What is working to promote innovations in gorilla management?; Multi-male and bachelor groups: Best practices - What's working at your facility? What's not and how can we learn from it?; Research Updates; Complexities such as holding/exhibit design; Introduction strategies; Management strategies; Field Work and Conservation: Ape Sanctuaries/Updates from the Field; Fundraisers to support in situ work; and In or Ex-situ conservation education programs.

Please send via e-mail or CD (in Word format) to: Laura Bottaro OR Donna Mobbs, OKC Zoo, 2101 NE 50th St., Okla. City, OK 73111
Emails: LBottaro@okczoo.com DMobbs@okczoo.com

Registration fees of \$195 are due by 10 February 2010. A late fee of \$30 will be assessed after 10 February. Ten dollars from each registration will be combined to benefit one or more in situ conservation project(s). If you have other general question about the workshop, OKC, etc, please contact Brian Aucone, BrianA@okczoo.com, 405-425-0283.

August 30 - September 3, 2010 - 7th International Penguin Conference - in Boston, MA. Hosted by The New England Aquarium. For info email ipcoston@neaq.org

September 7-12, 2010 - National AZAD Conference Hosted by Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, IL USA. Call for Papers--Share your ideas by presenting a paper addressing ways people can work to conserve our Earth and all the gifts it gives us - Abstracts must be submitted by January 15, 2010; Notification of Acceptance is February 15, 2010; Completed papers are due April 1, 2010. Presentations should be 45 minutes in length, including 10 minutes for Q&A. Please email abstracts to AZAD2010info@gmail.com with the subject line being "Abstract". Include name and contact info, title of paper, abstract, audio-visual equipment needed, your zoo/aquarium affiliation and AZAD membership category

September 28-October 2, 2010 - 20th International Zoo Educators' (IZE) Biennial Conference - at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, FL. For more information, please visit <http://www.izea.net>

Upcoming AAZK National Conferences

2010 - Philadelphia, PA - August 22-26
www.philadelphiaazk.org

2011 - San Diego, CA - August 24-28

2012 - Syracuse, NY - September 23-27

For information on upcoming AAZK conferences, watch the AAZK website at www.aazk.org

Runners For Rhinos?

(*running with rhinos?*)

Are there AAZK members who would like to run in the SafariCom Marathon or Half-Marathon at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (Kenya) in 2011?

If there is enough interest from AAZK members I would volunteer to organize the

trip to Lewa including a Safari and the marathon activities for June, 2011. I am an AAZK member and an experienced Lewa trip leader, and Lewa management is aware and supportive of an AAZK team participating in the marathon. I'd like to tie the event to raising BFR money in addition to whatever portion of the race expenses distributed by SafariCom/Tusk to LWC.

Details to come, with sufficient interest; suggestions invited.

Intrigued? Please send an email expressing your interest to: Runners4Rhinos@tampabayrr.com

Larry Clement
Dunedin, FL

AAZK Announces New Members

New Professional Members

Amy Augustine, **Utica Zoo (NY)**; Ashton Shaffer, Leigh Pitsko and Rebecca Smithson, **National Zoological Park (DC)**; Gregory Garcia, **Greenville Zoo (SC)**; Mathew Hodges, **Zoo Atlanta (GA)**; Megan Benesch, **The Nature Park (FL)**; Carina Hammang, **Naples Zoo (FL)**; Elisabeth Zafiris, **Knoxville Zoo (TN)**; Nolan Schlichter, **Great Plains Zoo (SD)**; Roy Keech, **Kansas City Zoo (MO)**; Kaitlyn Schuster, **Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo (NE)**; Lindsay Ezell, **Zoo of Acadiana (LA)**; Andria Benedetti, **Tulsa Zoo (OK)**; Jessica Sigle and Brian Frank, **Frank Buck Zoo (TX)**; Wendy Anderson, **Santa Barbara Zoo (CA)**; and Patrick Owen, **Woodland Park Zoo (WA)**. We do not publish the names of new and/or renewing members who do not list their facility on their membership application/renewal (There were two in February).

New Institutional Members

Brandywine Zoo, Willington, DE
Nancy Falasco, Director

Renewing Contributing Members

Verla Atkins, Atascosa, TX

Sarah Darhower, Saco, ME

Renewing Institutional Members

Quimby Library at Unity College
Unity, ME

Erie Zoo, Erie, PA
Scott Mitchell, President/CEO

Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo
Gainesville, FL
Jack Brown, Director

The Toledo Zoo, Toledo, OH
Dr. Anne Baker, Executive Director/CEO

Michigan State University
Libraries Serials Acquisition
East Lansing, MI

University Missouri Columbia
Ellis Library
Columbia, MO

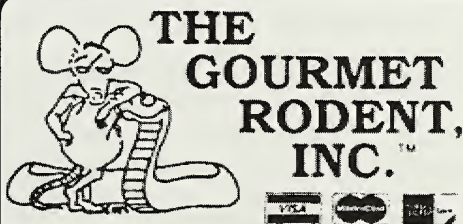
Cedar Cove Feline Conservation Park
Louisburg, KS
Larry Fries, Director

Little Rock Zoo
Little Rock, AR
Michael Blakley, Director

The Exotic Cat Refuge and
Wildlife Orphanage, Inc.
Kirbyville, TX
Monique Woodard, Director

Abilene Zoological Gardens
Abilene, TX
William K. Baker, Jr., Director

Chimps, Inc.
Bend, OR
Lesley Day, Director



RATS AND MICE

Bill & Marcia Brant

12921 SW 1st Rd., Ste 107,
PBM #434
Jonesville, FL 32669

(352) 472-9189

Fax: (352) 472-9192

e-mail: GrmtRodent@aol.com

From the President

Inside this month's issue of *AKF* appears an update on a rhino poaching case at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. This is the first poaching incident to ever occur within the protected region of Lewa. The incident underscores the importance of Bowling for Rhinos and our continued commitment to our Conservation Partnership with Lewa, International Rhino Foundation, and Action for Cheetahs in Kenya.

The global economic recession has put added pressure on our Conservation Partners as the desperately poor people of the region seek to feed their families with funds generated through illegal poaching. Paradoxically, even during economic booms, the pressure is just as great as the suddenly wealthy have expendable income for trinkets, traditional medicines, and bushmeat from critically endangered wildlife. The result of this paradox is that conservation, education, and community outreach must never rest.

Your Chapters' participation in Bowling for Rhinos is as important this year as it was during the inaugural BFR year in 1990. Our partnership with Lewa helps maintain a safe haven for critically endangered wildlife that is recognized as one of the world's most successful wildlife sanctuaries. BFR doesn't just protect rhinos, but conserves literally thousands of endangered species, and probably at least one species that you consider a favorite, or a species that you work with as a keeper. The best conservation projects have long-term commitment. We need BFR to continue to grow so that AAZK and its Conservation Partners can continue to meet our conservation goals.

Patty Pearthree has a vision for BFR in 2010. She wants it to be the year that every Chapter of AAZK participates in Bowling for Rhinos. She wants it to be the year we surpass \$500,000 in funds raised. These are lofty, yet attainable goals. Start planning your BFR event today. Sure, times are tough and fundraising is a challenge. However, despite the recession, everyone I know is still looking for fun, inexpensive, and local events to participate in, which is exactly what BFR is all about.



**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION**
of ZOO KEEPERS

Shane Good, AAZK President
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Rhino Poaching at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

It is with great sadness that I report some devastating news. On December 26th, just after 6:30 PM, two female black rhinos were shot in the area just south of Ngare Ndare village in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - one killed and one wounded (this last responding well to treatment of a bullet wound in the shoulder at present). The poachers must have given up on the injured rhino in the dark given the immediate response of our teams - so did not succeed in taking any horn. Our scouts heard the shots, and an armed team was on the ground within a matter of minutes. Ian Craig was in the air (with night vision equipment) within half a hour. Nevertheless, further follow up was prevented by the dark. At dawn on Dec. 27th the two rhino were identified - and the three poachers' tracks followed up (with the dogs) through the Ngare Ndare forest to the paved road above Kisima - where it appears that they took a vehicle towards Isiolo.

The tracker teams responded in a highly professional manner - doing everything possible, including placing road blocks on all likely exit routes. There was simply nothing further that could have been done to prevent the poachers' escape on foot in the dark. The bad news is that this incident reinforces the fact that demand for rhino horn continues to escalate, and that poaching efforts are increasingly well planned and executed. We have all been aware that our status as the only rhino sanctuary in Kenya not to have suffered a poaching incident to date was simply bound to be undone at some point - it was simply a matter of time.



I am extremely grateful for the commitment of Ian Craig, John Pameri, and his security teams on the ground, in following up on this incident so promptly and professionally. We will be carefully reviewing lessons learnt, so as to do our utmost to avert further such losses. An incident such as this undoubtedly reinforces the need for our armed teams, air support, dogs, and frequent training - all of which are costly but vital components of our core rhino conservation agenda. It also reinforces the need for support towards our core rhino conservation programme - and clearly places emphasis on the immense value of the support of all Overseas support in this context.

~ Dr. Jonathan Moss, LWC Chief Executive Officer

It was noted later that two other rhino were poached/killed in nearby sanctuaries on two subsequent nights (Muigi & Laikipia). It is all out war and we are reminded that we can never let our guard down.

The following note was received from Anna Merz BEFORE these latest events occurred:

"The poaching scene in Africa is now more dire than I ever remember it to have been in the more than 50 years I have lived in the beloved continent. Though all animals are in trouble, rhinos are top of the hit list for one reason only, the demand for horn, especially in China, coupled with the massive influx of Chinese into Africa." (The Chinese were contracted to build roads through Kenya and have been working near Lewa lately).



Third Call For Papers

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of AAZK invites you to submit abstracts relevant to our theme "A Return to our Roots for the Growth of our Future" for the 2010 National AAZK Conference. Abstracts will be accepted for one of three categories: papers, posters, and workshops.

Papers

Authors will give a 15-minute presentation with a five-minute Q&A session immediately following. Papers should discuss techniques, achievements, or innovative approaches to animal care and husbandry, welfare, conservation, education or research.

Posters

Posters will be on display throughout the conference and presenters must be available for discussion with other conference delegates during the designated poster presentation session.

Workshops

Those interested in running a professional workshop should submit an abstract, a list of group leaders, format of discussion, expected number of participants, and length of workshop.

Guidelines for Abstracts:

Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and should be submitted in Microsoft Word via email to conference@philadelphiaaazk.org. Be sure to include the following information:

- ◆ Title of paper, poster or workshop (specify which type of presentation)
- ◆ Full name of presenter and authors
- ◆ Institution/Affiliation
- ◆ Position/Title
- ◆ Short bio of yourself for introduction
- ◆ A/V needs
- ◆ Contact information, including email address

Deadline for abstracts is 1 May 2010. Presenters will be notified regarding acceptance by 1 June 2010. All final and complete papers must be received by 15 July 2010 in order to be included in the program.

For more information, please visit our website at www.philadelphiaaazk.org or contact us at conference@philadelphiaaazk.org.



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AAZK/ Geraldine Meyer Professional Development Grant

*Report from Bethany Ricci, Squirrel Monkey Studbook Keeper/ Population Manager
Senior Keeper , Lead Sea Lion Trainer
Utica Zoo, Utica, NY ~ November 2009*

In November 2009, I attended the Population Management II course, administered through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. I was fortunate enough to attend this course as a result of a grant I received from the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. The AAZK/ Geraldine Meyer Professional Development Grant provided me the opportunity to fulfill requirements as the Squirrel Monkey Program Manager and complete a required course for my graduate degree program through George Mason University.

I have served as an animal keeper for the past 11 years, and in that time, I have tried to immerse myself in all aspects of animal care and management. In addition to my duties as a senior animal keeper, I also serve as the North American Regional Population Manager and Studbook Keeper for Squirrel Monkeys. As any population manager knows, we spend countless hours compiling data, checking and rechecking our data for accuracy and communicating with colleagues. After all of this work, we meet with the Population Management Center (PMC) to formulate a plan for the population with the ultimate goal of sustaining these species well into the future.

The Population Management I (PMI) course teaches studbook keepers how to use the Poplink software and how to accurately enter data. The Population Management II course complements the information learned in PMI by highlighting the importance of demographic and genetic management in zoo populations, as well as how to work closely with the Population Management Center.

The course was scheduled over a five-day period with lectures, group work and presentations each day for up to 12 hours. Each day of the course, students were exposed to differing teaching styles, as well as varying subject matters. The goals for the course are to produce competent program managers and develop an understanding of demographic, genetic and husbandry concepts used while analyzing studbook data to create a breeding and transfer plan (AZA). Students learned the importance of being an expert on their species and understanding our role as program managers. We also learned to work with the Population Management Center and how to address concerns between plans.

We had a very full week of lectures and exercises. On our first night, the students were introduced to the instructors and given their biographical information. This gave us an idea of the areas of expertise that each instructor could bring to the table; therefore, allowing us to utilize that expertise throughout the course, to aid us in our projects and improve the learning environment. Each student in the course introduced themselves and highlighted their experience with managing a program.

We began our first full day of coursework with a review of what a final breeding and transfer plan would include. We also discussed the Population Management Center's role in the breeding and transfer plan, including what timelines are set for the program manager prior to the meeting with the PMC. Next we reviewed some features of the Poplink software that we had not previously used, including the transfer of data to the PM2000 software. We reviewed the role of the program manager and roles of staff at the AZA and how they can assist with the program management. We also began practicing with sample management plans, including exercises on demography and genetics.

The next day, we learned about demography theory. Demography is the science of how a population's size, structure, and distribution have changed in the past and how they might be expected to change in the future (AZA). Discussions included learning how to utilize the Poplink software to answer questions about each population. We reviewed such things as age distribution, survivorship and mortality. We then briefly discussed genetics theory, which led us to upload the PM2000 software. This software is used for reproductive planning and to work through demographic challenges. Throughout the day we worked on exercises to assist students in learning the material by using sample studbooks, such as the "Savage Tamarin", a fictional tamarin species created for use in this course. We later learned to expect challenges in the planning and how we might work through those challenges.

The following day we delved back into genetics theory. Management of genetic variation is important to the managed populations in order to help sustain them into the future. Students then learned to define an analytical population and make educated assumptions on that population. We discussed how husbandry can effect population management. The studbook keeper is the source for husbandry information that is compiled from the studbook data; therefore, it is imperative that the studbook keeper be aware of any nuances in the population. Information about reproductive trends, such as birth season, gestation, age at first reproduction among other things, can be integral to the management of the population. Husbandry issues should be addressed before an animal is recommended for breeding or transfer.

On our fourth full day of lecture, we learned the importance of balancing demography, genetics and husbandry; as well as, the importance of meeting deadlines and communicating with colleagues. We finished the day with more work on our exercises. It was especially interesting to be able to work on populations of both mammals and birds, as this gave me a new perspective on population management that I had not had in only managing a mammal population. Birds and reptiles have a unique set of challenges with their record keeping, husbandry and planning for breeding recommendations.

One of the most integral points I took away from the course was the importance of communication. Without communication, a program could be completely crippled. It is our job as program managers to make the transfer of information as seamless as possible. We can utilize phone calls, emails and surveys to ask for data, but the key is to ask the right questions. We are all very busy in our professions and this is because we are all trying to provide the best life possible for our charges. I, for one, am glad I can be a part of the population management process and I expect that this course has made me better educated to do so.

I would like to thank the AAZK Board of Directors for the granting me the Geraldine Meyer Professional Development Award. I truly appreciate the opportunity to attend this course and hope that others will utilize the resources provided us by the AAZK. I would also like to thank the Population Management II course instructors and my partner, Ingrid for a great learning experience.

Reference Materials

Population Management II. 2009 Professional Development Program, Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Course Administrator: Robert Weise, PhD. Zoological Society of San Diego. Instructors: Lisa Faust, PhD., Jamie Ivy, PhD., Sarah Long, Colleen Lynch, Candice Dorsey and Kristine Schad.

Safari to Kenya

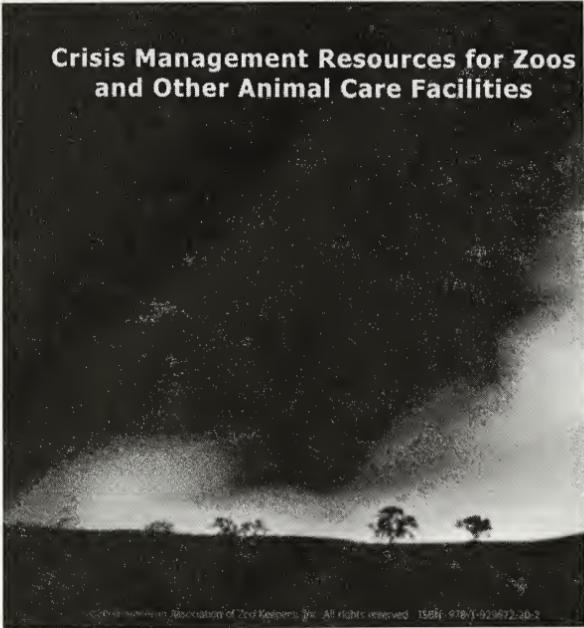
Interested in visiting Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya with a zoo group? We have a few spots open on our Feb. 13-28, 2011 trip. We are accepting zoo staff, volunteers and their travel companions. Please visit: <http://www.lewa.org> or <http://www.lewasafaricamp.com>.

Total cost will be about \$4,500 per person depending on the cost of the flight at the time we book. This includes round trip (RT) airfare to Nairobi, RT flights directly into Lewa, transfer fees, 8 nights at the Lewa safari camp (luxury camping including showers/bathrooms within each tent), 2 nights at Il Ngwesi or Tassia(excellent community lodges which have won many tourist awards), \$90 daily conservancy fee, all meals, and game drives. Tips (about \$90/person for entire stay) and alcohol are not included.



Rates are based on double occupancy (but we can work on pairing you up if you don't want to pay extra as a single). They also have triples. Maximum number is 14 for the trip including the leader. Patty Pearthree and Denise Wagner will be Co-Leading this trip to Lewa. An optional extension to the Masai Mara is available as space allows.

These trips fill quickly so call 919-678-0449 or email Patty at ppear3@pear3.org or email Denise Wagner at oricou@cox.net ASAP if interested.



**Crisis Management Resources for Zoos
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This CD includes - in searchable PDF format - all of the papers, resource lists, and species protocols originally published in the 400+ page book, Resources for Crisis Management in Zoos and Other Animal Care Facilities (1999), as well as all the manuscripts published in the November/December 2007 issue of Animal Keepers' Forum dedicated to crisis management in zoos. The original 1999 book has been out of print for some time and is no longer available for purchase.

The CD is searchable by author, title or word. Chapter Titles from the original Crisis Management Book include: Factors That Influence Crisis Management in a Zoological Setting, Developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan, Emergency Response and Crisis Management Teams, Public Relations and the Crisis Situation, Animal Restraint and Animal Identification Techniques, Dealing with a Crisis Situation: Case Studies/Zoological Crisis, Case Studies/Natural Disasters, Case Studies/Manmade Disaster, Case Studies/Injury or Death at the Zoo, and Taxon-Specific Crisis Management Protocols. The Appendices includes Resource Lists, Sample Forms and a list of Vendors with products useful in crisis situations. Included papers from the dedicated issue of *AKF* include: Crisis Management Planning in Zoological Institutions, Disease Risk Communication and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Developing a Weapons Team for Dangerous Animal Emergencies, Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?, Chemical Restraint of Exotic Animals in a Emergency Situation, The Veterinary Role of First Responders to a Medical Emergency in a Crisis Management Situation, Critical Incident Stress Management: A Proven Tool for Addressing Staff Needs After a Traumatic Event, Developing a Program for Dangerous Animal Emergencies: Procedures for Animal Escapes, Unauthorized Person in with Dangerous Animals, Dive Safety in Zoos and Aquariums, Wildlife! One Facility's Response and Lessons Learned, Keeping Communications Equipment Powered in an Emergency, The Terrorist Threat to Zoological Institutions, Hurricane Preparedness: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina, Training Dangerous Animals Safely is No Accident, Firearms Use and Training in AZA Institutions, and Aspects of a Safety Program for Zoos and Aquariums.

Cost of this resource CD is \$25.00 for AAZK Members and \$50.00 for nonmembers. First class postage is included. This CD may be ordered online at the AAZK website (www.aazk.org) under "Publications" or you may order by calling the AAZK Office at 785-273-9149 and making your purchase with a Mastercard or Visa.



Bowling for Rhinos 2010

(Feel free to photocopy this form to submit to Patty Pearthree.)



It's time to start planning for "Bowling for Rhinos 2010". Please send in your information ASAP. There is a \$25 administrative fee for each event. Send check made out to AAZK, Inc. to Patty Pearthree, c/o BFR, 318 Montibello Dr., Cary, NC 27513. Remember, if you want to be eligible to win any of the trips being offered, all money must be sent to Patty Pearthree *by 1 September 2010*, and you **must** be a national AAZK member in good standing to qualify. If bowling isn't your thing, try "Rock'n for Rhinos", "Run for Rhinos" or send a Chapter or individual donation. Every penny counts toward saving rhinos worldwide! Question? Call (919) 678-0449 or email ppear3@pear3.org. Check out the Bowling for Rhinos website at <http://aazkbfr.org>.

Please Print Clearly

Contact person: _____

Zoo/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phont: Day - _____ Night - _____

Email: _____

Will you be hosting a Bowling for Rhinos Event this year? YES NO

When? _____

Where? _____

How many Sponsor Forms do you aticipate needing? _____

If you would like sample BFR letters/flyers/posters, they are available at the BFR website -

<http://aazkbfr.org>

Mail to:

*Patty Pearthree
c/o Bowling for Rhinos
318 Montibello Dr.
Cary, NC 27513*

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Administrative Fee of \$25.00***

Questions?

(919) 678-0449

pear3@pear3.org

<http://aazkbfr.org>

Iconic Animal Populations Being Decimated by Habitat Loss and Poaching: Climate Change Emerges As Clear Threat on WWF'S Annual "10 to Watch" List

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released its annual list of some of the most threatened species around the world, saying that the long-term survival of many animals is increasingly in doubt due to a host of threats, including climate change, and calling for a step up in efforts to save some of the world's most threatened animals.

WWF's list of "10 to Watch in 2010" includes such well-known and beloved species as tigers, polar bears, pandas, and rhinos, as well as lesser-known species such as bluefin tuna and mountain gorillas. WWF scientists say these, and many other species, are at greater risk than ever before because of habitat loss, poaching, and climate change-related threats. This year's watch list includes five species directly impacted by climate change, as well as the monarch butterfly, the species at the center of an endangered biological phenomenon. Tigers are at the forefront of this year's list, with the official Year of the Tiger beginning this month.

"We have an urgent window of opportunity in which to step up and pull back some of the world's most splendid animals from the brink of extinction," says Dr. Sybille Klenzendorf, WWF's Managing Director of Species Conservation. "We urge everyone who wants to live in a world with tigers, polar bears, and pandas to make it their New Year's resolution to save these amazing and threatened species before it's too late."

WWF's "Ten to Watch in 2010" list:

Tiger - New studies indicate that there may be as few as 3,200 tigers (*Panthera tigris*) left in the wild. Tigers occupy less than seven percent of their original range, which has decreased by 40%



Amur tiger lying in the snow

© Kevin Schafer / WWF-Canon

over the past ten years. Accelerating deforestation and rampant poaching could push some tiger populations to the same fate as its now-extinct Javan and Balinese relatives in other parts of Asia. Tigers are poached for their body parts, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine, while skins are also highly prized. Additionally, sea level rise, due to climate change, threatens the mangrove habitat of a key tiger population in Bangladesh's and India's Sundarbans. The Year of the Tiger, 2010, will mark an important year for conservation efforts to save wild tigers, with WWF continuing to play a vital role in implementing bold new strategies to save this magnificent Asian big cat.

Polar Bear - The Arctic's polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) have become the iconic symbol of early victims of climate-induced habitat loss. Designated a threatened species for protection by the Endangered Species Act in the U.S., polar bears will be vulnerable to extinction within the next century, if warming trends in the Arctic continue at the current pace. WWF is supporting field research to understand how climate change will affect polar bears and to develop adaptation strategies. WWF also works to protect critical polar bear habitat by working with governments and industry to reduce threats from shipping and oil and gas development in the region and with local communities to reduce human-bear conflict in areas where bears are already stranded on land for longer periods of time due to lack of ice.



Polar Bear
Hudson Bay, Canada

© Kevin Schafer / WWF-Canon

Pacific Walrus - The Arctic's Bering and Chukchi Seas are home to the Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*), one of the latest victims of climate change. In September of this year, up



Pacific walrus Males
Round Island, Alaska,
© Kevin Schafer / WWF-Canon

to 200 dead walrus were spotted on the shore of the Chukchi Sea on Alaska's northwest coast. These animals use floating ice for resting, birthing and nursing calves, and protection from predators. With Arctic ice melting, the Pacific walrus is experiencing habitat loss to the extent that in September 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that adding the walrus to the Endangered Species Act may be warranted.

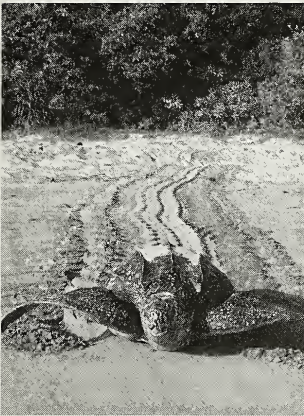
Magellanic Penguin - Once threatened primarily by oil spills, Magellanic penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), now face a larger threat as fish are displaced by warming ocean currents, forcing the birds to swim farther to find food. Last year hundreds of Magellanic



Magellanic or jackass
Penguins in Patagonia
© Michel Gunther / WWF-Canon

penguins washed up on beaches around Rio de Janeiro, many emaciated or dead. Scientists have speculated that changes in ocean currents or temperatures, which may be related to climate change, could have been responsible for their movement more than a thousand miles north of their traditional nesting area in the southern tip of Argentina. Twelve out of the

17 penguin species are currently experiencing rapid population decline.



Leatherback Turtle
returning to the sea
© Ronald Petocz / WWF-Canon

Leatherback Turtle - The largest marine turtle and one of the largest living reptiles, the leatherback turtle, (*Dermochelys coriacea*) has survived for more than a hundred million years, but is now facing extinction. Recent estimates of numbers show that this species is declining, particularly in the Pacific where as few as 2,300 adult females now remain, making the Pacific leatherback the world's most endangered marine turtle population. Atlantic turtle populations are more stable but scientists predict a decline due to the large numbers of adults being caught as bycatch and killed accidentally by fishing fleets. Additionally, rising sea levels and higher temperatures on Atlantic beaches pose a new threat to turtles and their offspring. Nest temperature strongly determines the sex of offspring, and a nest warming trend is reducing the number of male turtles. WWF aims to conserve leatherback turtle migratory pathways - by working with fisheries to decrease bycatch, by protecting critical nesting beaches, and by raising awareness so that local communities will protect turtles and their nests.

Bluefin Tuna - The Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) is a large migratory fish found in the western and eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. Bluefin tuna is the source of highest grade sushi. Bluefin tuna fisheries are near collapse and the species at serious risk of extinction if unsustainable fishing practices in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are not stopped. A temporary ban on the global trade of bluefin tuna would allow the overexploited species to recover. WWF is encouraging restaurants, chefs, retailers, and consumers to stop serving, buying, selling, and eating endangered bluefin tuna until this amazing species shows signs of recovery.



Bluefin Tuna on line
ready to be tagged -
Spain

© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

Mountain Gorilla - Scientists consider mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) to be a critically endangered gorilla subspecies, with about 720 surviving in the wild. More than 200 live in the Virunga National Park, located in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, bordering Rwanda and Uganda. War has been waged in areas around the park, with gorillas subject to related threats such as poaching and loss of habitat. Conservation efforts have led to an increase in the Virunga population by 14% in the last 12 years, while the mountain gorillas other home,



Mountain Gorillas
Virunga National Park

© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda, has experienced population increases of 12% over the past decade. Despite this success, the mountain gorillas status remains fragile, and WWF is working to save the great ape's forest habitat in the mountains of the heart of Africa.

Monarch Butterfly - Every year millions of delicate monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) migrate from North America to their winter habitat in Mexico. A well conserved and protected high-altitude pine and fir forest in Mexico is absolutely essential for the survival of the overwintering of monarchs, which has been recognized as an endangered biological phenomenon.



Monarch Butterfly at
reserve in Mexico

© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

The protection of its reproductive habitats in the United States and Canada is also crucial to saving this species migration, one of the most remarkable natural phenomena on the planet. World Wildlife Fund, in collaboration with the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature, has designed an innovative conservation strategy to protect and restore the Monarch butterflies wintering habitat in Mexico, so butterflies are protected from extremes weather and other threats. WWF is also supporting local communities to establish trees nurseries that are reintroduced to the monarch butterfly reserve, creating at the same time new sources of income for the owners of the monarch forests.



Javan Rhino
Indonesia

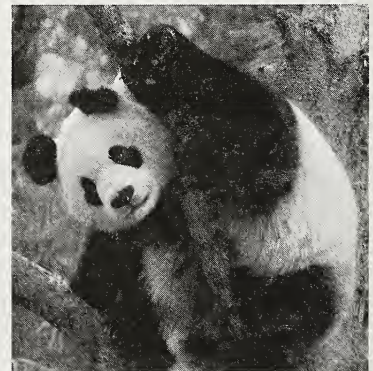
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Javan Rhinoceros - Listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (2009), the Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is considered the most endangered large mammal in the world with only two populations known to exist in the wild, for a total number of less than 60 animals. Highly prized as a commodity in traditional Chinese medicine, Javan rhinos have also been brought to the verge of extinction by the conversion of forest habitat to farmland. WWF has been involved in the protection and conservation of the Javan rhino since 1988, supporting forest rangers to undertake increased

patrolling and protection activities, conducting surveys of the rhino population, raising awareness of the importance of the rhinos to local communities, and supporting park management. Last month,

using highly trained sniffer dogs, WWF found traces of the extremely rare and endangered Vietnamese Javan Rhinoceros, of which no more than a dozen are thought to exist.

Giant Panda - An international symbol of conservation since WWF's founding in 1961, the giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) which numbers less than 2500 in the wild, faces an uncertain future. Its forest habitat in the mountainous areas of southwest China has become fragmented, creating small and isolated populations. WWF has been active in giant panda conservation for nearly three decades, conducting field studies, working to protect habitats and, most recently, by providing assistance to the Chinese government in establishing a program to protect the panda and its habitat through the creation of reserves.

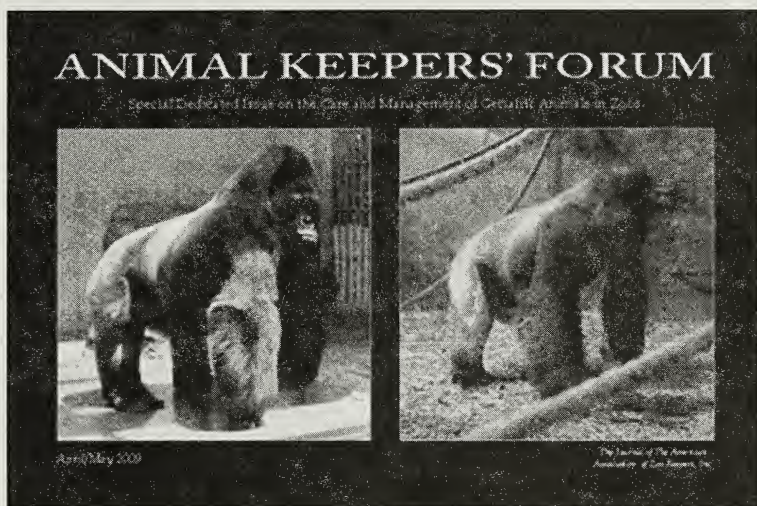


Giant Panda in tree
Wolong Nature Reserve, China

© Bernard De Wettter / WWF-Canon

Source: World Wildlife Fund Press Release by Kerry Zobor 12/2/09

Special Double Issue of Animal Keepers' Forum Dedicated to the Care and Management of Geriatric Animals Available for Purchase



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Rhino News Notes...

Prague, Czech Republic - Four northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*), a very rare subspecies on the brink of extinction, have left the Czech Republic aboard a plane specially arranged for this purpose and have been flown to Kenya to be released to the wild.

The rhinos were transported from their home zoo in Dvur Kralove nad Labem, east Bohemia, by trucks to the Prague airport, some 120km far away. After the plane with them landed in Nairobi, they were transported to the Ol Pejeta reserve, 150km from the Kenyan capital. They covered over 6000 kilometres in about 24 hours.

"The rhinos received light sedatives. They are used to a calm environment, but today they experienced bustling atmosphere," the zoo spokeswoman Jana Mysliveckova told CTK. She said no problems accompanied the transport and the animals are doing well.

Experts prepared the most comfortable transport conditions for them, including heated trucks and special boxes. The food the rhinos were accustomed to was transported along with them and they will continue to receive it in Kenya for some time.



Northern White Rhinoceros at a zoo in Eastern Bohemia
(Photo: StockExchange)

Experts hope the transfer might save the northern white rhino subspecies as only the last few specimen of it reportedly survive in the wild. In captivity, there have been only eight of them - six in the Dvur Kralove zoo and two in the zoo in San Diego, the USA. Conservationists believe that in their new home in Africa the females' hormonal level may rise to enable them to get pregnant.

According to the latest information, three specimen of the rhino subspecies have been recently detected in Sudan, a male, a female and a calf. If the information proves true, experts will try to bring the three to the reserve where the Dvur Kralove zoo's rhinos have been released, Mysliveckova said.

The "Czech" rhinos transported to Africa included two males aged 38 and 29, and two females aged 20 and nine. Only the older male was born in the wild, the others were born and raised in the Dvur Kralove zoo. The species' life expectancy is about 40 to 45 years.

Mysliveckova said various animal protection organizations had helped the zoo finance the transfer, whose costs are estimated at five million crowns [\$311,546.00 U.S.]. The rhinos remain the zoo's property and if calves are born to them, they may return to the zoo one day, Mysliveckova said.

Opponents of the transfer say the project is meaningless and risky and that assisted reproduction would be the right solution. *Source: Noviny.cz 12/19/09*

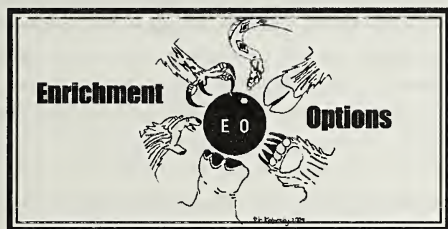


Safari at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy!

Have you always dreamed of Africa? In June 2010 we will be leading a trip to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya and would like you to come! This is the park that your Bowling for Rhinos donations help support. Lewa is a 64,000 acre private wildlife refuge in Kenya supporting five ecosystems and hundreds of species from Aardvarks to Zorillas, including the Big 5. Because of AAZK's continuing support of Lewa, we are offered a substantial discount for group trips.

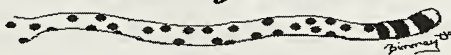
I have to warn you, this is no ordinary safari. Lewa is a real working wildlife refuge, so no mini buses and no crowds of tourists. We take our time and really get to know the animals, land and people. The accommodations are great, the food is fantastic, and the animals will amaze you. The trip includes game drives, hikes, horseback riding, Samburu National Park, and two days at a Massai lodge and cultural boma. The trip will be for ten nights departing June 4th and will cost around \$5,000 (depending on airfare prices). We only have a few spaces open so get back to us soon to reserve yours. Check out Lewa at www.lewa.org. Email kshelto1@tampabay.rr.com or call 813-835-8204. We would be happy to tell you all about our previous trips.

*Hope to hear from you soon,
Kevin and Paula Shelton*



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Training Tales...



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KEEPERS AND COMMUNICATION, Part II

By Judie Steenberg (12/09)

Retired Zoo Keeper

Maplewood, Minnesota

In-House Communication

Let's now consider communication in a zoo situation. There are two major factors that affect Keepers and communication. One is the policy of the zoo and the administrative staff in providing the means for communication within the zoo's operation. Does the Keeper have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information with co-workers and the administrative staff, to record important observations and data for the zoo's permanent record, and to be involved with the zoo's volunteers and visitors? Is the Keeper encouraged to develop as a communicator within his/her own zoo and with other zoos? All of these things have an important effect on the success of a Keeper's communicative efforts. But, even in an ideal zoo, with all of these avenues open, a second, very important, key factor is the attitude of the Keeper. Unless an effort is made on the part of the individual, none of it means much.

It is a fact of life that nothing is accomplished without effort. Good relationships among Keepers and the administrative staff do not just happen, they're developed through communication. Albeit, there are zoos where this is not possible but, often, where effort is made, success follows. You can communicate successfully if you use the right approach, have a constructive attitude and try hard enough. Persistence pays off....but be cautious about over-communicating which can cause others to tune you out. Planning how and with whom you're trying to communicate are essentials to being successful.

For those who work in zoos that realize the value of good Keepers, the possibilities of communicating are many. Zoo records are the first area of input. It is hard to imagine that something hasn't happened during the day that is not worth noting. Perhaps it does not require an entry on the zoo's records but, then again, maybe it does. Keepers must develop skills to perceive, interpret and apply information about the animals in their care. Perception means noticing, observing, listening to and realizing what's taking place. A new Keeper must develop this ability while veteran Keepers must take care not to become complacent or oblivious to what's happening.

Interpretation means analyzing information according to importance and relevance. The application of information can be by oral or written communication, or through performance. Performance? Yes, how a Keeper transfers or relates information to the daily care of animals. This could take the form of training a new Keeper or of working well with co-workers. Probably the single most effective means of communication is making entries in the zoo's records. "Many species of animals owe their existence to facts learnt about them in zoological institutions." (Hediger 1964).....note the year on that reference; we're still learning and the need to communicate information about the care of the animals continues to be of major importance.

Communications between co-workers and administrative staff may not always be optimal. It is not reasonable to expect that everybody will always agree with or understand everything that's being communicated. But, if a Keeper's attitude is constructive and the effort is rational, much can be accomplished. Keepers have a unique position in a zoo's operation; they have the opportunity to communicate with members of the administrative staff, auxiliary staff (maintenance, volunteers, etc.)

and zoo visitors about first-hand experiences with the animals. Although zoo visitors can be difficult to deal with at times, Keepers can do much to educate them. Because Keepers can relate first-hand information about the animals, they can generate sincere interest and appreciation of the animals in their care.

As a Keeper, you have much to share and accomplish at all levels of zoo communication; how much depends on you and the zoo you work at. Perhaps you are only interested in communication on a scientific level with your colleagues. But, if you choose to, you have the ability to do more for your zoo than you may realize. Whatever your predilection, you have a responsibility, as a Keeper, to at least communicate information about the animals in your care to those within your zoo who can aide in their care and management.

A good, quality zoo's strongest asset is a good communication system. Keepers should be kept informed of all that's happening at the zoo and in turn are expected to communicate pertinent information about the animals in their keep to the administrative staff. Morning unit meetings and weekly crew meeting are just two ways to ensure everyone is up-to-date with what's going on in a given unit, section or area of a zoo. A Daily Report provides the means to note entries of data pertaining to the animals, physical plant and special activities. Each Keeper working a routine should be expected to make entries regarding the animals in his/her area. Each routine or unit should also have a daily notebook that serves as an on-going Keepers' communication tool. It might contain some of the same information about the animals as the Daily Report, but should also note changes or variations in procedures in the area, things to watch for, up-coming issues or events. It serves as a briefing book for relief Keepers who might not be up-to-date on what's happening in a unit. A Keeper's notebook can also be a reminder or handy reference to recall information. The format could be on a computer, or simply notes in a spiral notebook hanging from a hook in the barn. E-mailing or texting information may be "convenient" but is also "temporary" and not always available to all concerned.

Many zoos have a monthly meeting, the format of which varies according to the institution. Some monthly meetings cover everything from admissions to the veterinary department and all departments in between. These meetings can be helpful for knowing what's going on throughout the whole zoo. In a small zoo, a comprehensive monthly meeting can serve its purpose very well. However, this type of meeting at a large zoo can be disconcerting for the Keeper when it deals with everything but the animals. There should always be a monthly meeting for the animal management staff, even if it has to be a separate meeting. For Keepers to know and care about what's going on in other animal areas they have to know about what's happening! Ignorance breeds rumors and misinformation.

Weekly or monthly in-house newsletters should be made available to all staff. One way to share information and generate interest in your area is to submit information for your zoo's newsletter. A zoo's library should be accessible for Keepers to review information from other zoos and to use reference materials. Some zoos have unit libraries with reference materials readily at hand for use by Keepers. Make use of your zoo's library to review periodicals from other zoos and current literature about the animals for which you care.

Communication at some zoos extends outside the perimeter fence. Not only do some Keepers relate well to zoo visitors, give brownbag talks for staff, give talks throughout the city to all types of groups, give radio and TV interviews, they also give presentations at workshops and conferences for the zoo community.

Reference

Hediger, H. 1964. *Wild Animals in Captivity*. Dover Publishing, Inc., New York, NY

The next People Skills for Animal People column will address "Getting the Word Out"

The AAZK Behavioral Husbandry Committee Presents

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*Training Tales Editors – Jay Pratte, Zoo Atlanta; Kim Kezer, Zoo New England;
and Angela Binney, Disney's Animal Kingdom*

Visitor Cued Gorilla “Tree Climb” Behavior

By

*Ron Evans, Primate Team Leader
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
Cincinnati, OH
2009*

Introduction

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden has a guiding objective to “Inspire Every Visitor with Wildlife Everyday”. To achieve this goal the zoo is constantly looking for new ways to connect with guests through innovative interpretives, special events and direct contact opportunities like keeper talks. In 2009, the gorilla keeper talk was enhanced by incorporating a new “tree climb” behavior. The addition of this behavior provides interactive opportunities allowing young guests the chance to present the cue.

Challenges:

Unlike training for up close behaviors like body presentations, hand injections, etc. through cage mesh, this behavior would have to be partially trained with the gorilla in the outdoor habitat and the keeper across the moat in the public viewing area.

One of the primary goals of managing a gorilla group is to keep them as cohesive as possible by avoiding situations that can cause undo aggressions among the members. The entire group would be present during the training process while in the exhibit as well as during the time the behavior was to be demonstrated for the visitors. This limited which gorilla could be chosen to be conditioned for this behavior. Although some subordinate individuals seemed to have a better propensity for learning this behavior, the silverback was chosen as he had the strongest autonomy and subsequent ability to receive unfettered delivery of reinforcement in a group situation.

Only one staff person is available each day to give gorilla keeper talks. This behavior would have to be utilized by this person while interacting with the crowd, being mindful of gorilla group behavior stimuli and properly cueing and responding to the gorilla performing the behavior. This presented a challenging task and required this behavior be sharply honed before integration into the talks.

Visitors have unsupervised access to the gorillas while they are on exhibit during the day. To discuss operant conditioning methods and show large numbers of individuals the cue that would be used for this behavior during keeper talks would allow the opportunity for someone to offer the cue for the behavior at any time. This could severely undermine the training. To eliminate this possibility, the gorilla was trained to recognize a long, brightly colored stick that could not be duplicated by the visitors. The distinctive, unusual look of this cue could also be seen clearly by the gorilla from a distance helping to facilitate training.

Visitor Cued Gorilla “tree climb” Training Steps:

1. Institute basic training steps if not already established - Find reinforcers, condition the bridge, condition gorilla station, condition target training.
2. While in off-exhibit holding area, condition gorilla to target to laser pointer by aiming it close to gorilla's hand and gradually moving it anywhere in the area for targeting.
3. Install affixed targets (chain with brightly colored quick link) on the holding area's mesh front and further back in the area.
4. Condition gorilla with laser pointer to touch the nearby chain/ link target on front mesh.
5. Condition gorilla to touch distant chain/ target with laser pointer.
6. Continue Step 5 until gorilla reliably does behavior.
7. Introduce a unique cue for this behavior (long, brightly colored stick). Continue to couple new cue with laser prompt for Step 5. Gradually remove the laser prompt until the gorilla targets to the chain/ link with the new cue only.
8. Affix the same chain/ link targets in the outside gorilla exhibit near normal sitting areas and several other strategic areas leading up to the top of the large artificial tree in the yard.
9. Position yourself in the public area across the moat as close to the tree as possible for initial training.
10. Ask the gorilla to target to a nearby chain/ link by presenting the unique cue and using the laser prompt to help. A strong green beamed laser pointer is works well.
11. All reinforcement must be tossed across the moat towards to the gorilla. This will necessitate the gorilla moving away from target to where the reinforcement lands. The gorilla can then be cued to return to target again.
12. Gradually target the gorilla to chain/ links further away towards and onto the tree until he climbs to the top.
13. Continue to couple the unique cue with the laser pointer prompt until the gorilla reliably climbs the tree with only the cue given.
14. Give the cue as you gradually position yourself further away from the tree and into the normal keeper talk position in the public area.
15. Once primary trainer has the gorilla consistently doing the behavior on cue, train other keepers on proper execution of this behavior.
16. Once keepers are established have other zoo personnel give the gorilla the cue for the behavior with the keeper present. The keeper will always deliver the reinforcement.
17. Once the gorilla consistently does the behavior when prompted by various zoo personnel, ask random guests to do so with keeper present to deliver reinforcement. Eventually children should be selected for this opportunity for more of an inspirational effect.
18. Once behavior is reliable done by the gorilla with young visitor giving the cue it can be incorporated into the daily keeper talks.



Silverback Jomo regularly demonstrates this naturalistic behavior for thousands of inspired guests throughout the year, enhancing the opportunity to discuss gorilla conservation. (Photo by author)



A happy young guest gets the rare opportunity to cue a gorilla "tree climb" behavior while her family and others watch on. (Photo by author)

Conclusion:

This is a very involved behavior to train and maintain. All keepers must be very consistent in managing it especially since it is utilized during talks with crowds of over 400 visitors watching. With staffing limitations resulting in opportunistic training that varied from several times a week to stretches of daily sessions, this behavior took about three months to train. This duration could definitely be shorter for institutions with more personnel. The "tree climb" behavior was maintained at its final approximation throughout the entire summer with all keepers incorporating it into their visitor talks. On rainy days the gorilla was not always cooperative but was very consistent on an almost daily basis. The end result was well worth the effort. It provides the zoo with an enhanced opportunity to impart messages about in situ conservation and other missions while children marvel at having the ability to get a gorilla to climb a tree. It is an inspirational moment in their lives that will be carried for years and experienced vicariously by many others.

BHC Comments by Angela Binney:

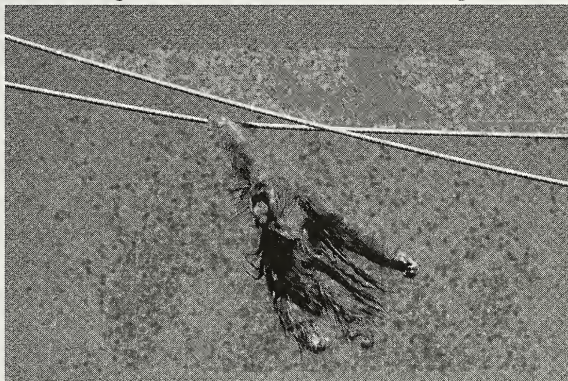
Just as behavioral husbandry has evolved immensely over the past few decades, guest interaction has as well. This project exemplifies the shift from zoos serving mostly as entertainment venues to places that inspire conservation action through education. There are three factors that tend to captivate a zoo audience and encourage them to linger at an exhibit: animal activity, the presence of a keeper, and guest involvement. This project hits all three of these. This captivation allows us, the keepers, to share our passion and to foster a love of wildlife and wild places.

The National Zoo's O Line: The Enrichment Value of an Orangutan Transit System

*By Margaret Bryer and Shelby Schwartz, Great Ape House Interns
Smithsonian National Zoological Park, Washington, DC*

Abstract

The Smithsonian's National Zoological Park's orangutan transit system, known as the O Line, is an excellent form of enrichment for the zoo's orangutans, giving them the opportunity to practice their natural locomotor ability. The O Line is also beneficial because it provides the orangutans with behavioral choices beyond the limitations of their outdoor yard. To better understand this unique exhibit's value to the animals, we collected data on behavior and use of the O Line. We observed the variety of ways the orangutans move along the Line. All five individuals who choose to travel the O Line locomote in several different ways above, below or along the plastic-coated steel cables connecting the Line's towers, though only one individual brachiates. The different components of the O Line -- the eight 50-foot towers, the cables connecting them, and the fire hoses connecting the towers to the yards -- are not merely a form of transportation, but forms of enrichment independently as well. We therefore examined how frequently orangutans used the hoses in play or in other behaviors instead of as a means to climb the tower, as well as how frequently they rested in the towers and on the cables. The behavioral freedom introduced with the O Line also includes the option to spend the night in the indoor enclosure at Think Tank, so we also kept track of how often the animals remain at Think Tank versus how frequently they return to the Great Ape House for the night. Finally, we studied how several of these factors are affected by temperature and crowd size. Together these behavioral data illustrate the enrichment impact of this innovative exhibit, as it dramatically expands the behavioral choices available to an intelligent and primarily arboreal great ape often confined to limited indoor and outdoor enclosures in captivity.



1.0 Orangutan Kiko brachiating on NPZ's
O Line Transit System

Introduction

This National Zoo's unique O Line exhibit is an orangutan transit system opened in 1995 consisting of eight 50-foot towers connected by plastic-coated steel cables spanning a total distance of 490 feet. The O Line allows the orangutans to commute between the Great Ape House and Think Tank (an exhibit on animal thinking). The O Line traverses two visitor walkways, providing a proximity to visitors that no other zoo in the United States offers.

Many agree that giving animals control over their environment increases their psychological well-being (Novak and Drewsen, 1989; Rumbaugh, Washburn and Savage-Rumbaugh, 1989), and the O-Line provides a dramatic expansion of the orangutans' behavioral and spatial choices. The National Zoo's orangutans are able to choose where to go and how to move along the 490-foot system, and ultimately which building to occupy. This arrangement also allows individuals a certain amount of control over their companions, a choice often eliminated in small zoo enclosures.

The O Line is also a wonderful educational opportunity. Zoo visitors can watch these naturally arboreal animals move above them with ease, an opportunity lost in traditional enclosures in which orangutans are primarily confined to the ground. The awe-inspiring sight of an adult male orangutan brachiating or a young orangutan resting on the Line and looking down at visitors is a great way for visitors to better understand this species and increase interest in great apes.

Five of the six resident orangutans choose to use the O Line when they are given access, weather permitting, from approximately 1030 – 1400 hrs daily. Towers 1 and 8, in the two yards, are open for the orangutans to climb. Towers 2 through 7 have electrified wire “skirts” below their platforms that deter the orangutans from climbing down.

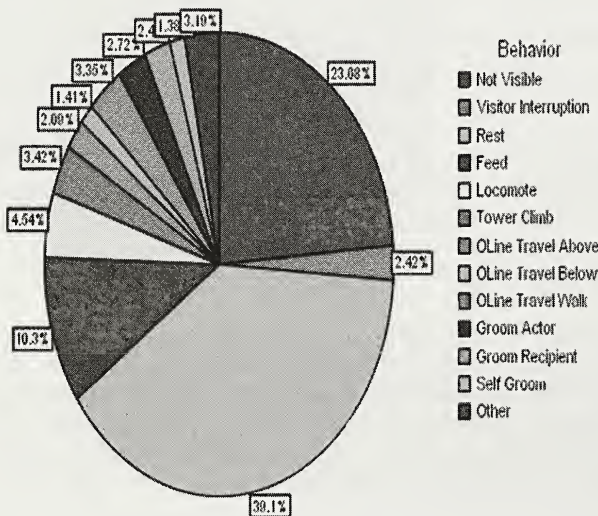
Methods

Data was collected on most days that the orangutans had access to the O Line from April through August 2009. We began data collection when the access door at the Great Ape House or Think Tank opened and stopped data collection when access ended. Group scans were conducted every minute, in 20-minute intervals. At each one-minute scan the following was recorded: each individual’s behavior, location, nearest neighbor (within five body lengths) and individual(s) in contact. We recorded yard behaviors as well as behaviors on the O Line because this gives a more comprehensive picture of how the animals choose to spend their time when they have access to the O Line. We also recorded the temperature every hour and the visitor crowd size (on a 1 to 3 scale) every hour. In order to evaluate the orangutans’ use of components of the O Line system in non-climbing activities, we also recorded any instance of the use of hoses or towers in non-climbing behaviors. Data was only collected on the 38-year-old female Lucy’s yard behaviors when she was out with other orangutans, not when she was let out alone in the yard, as such data will be unrelated to an O Line study because she never travels.

Figure 1.1



1.0 Orangutan Kyle walks the cables of the NPZ’s O Line



Results

Behavioral data was collected on five of the zoo’s six orangutans, two males and three females, when they had access to the O Line between April and August 2009. We used 22 behavioral codes, five of which were unique to the orangutans’ activities “in the air” – on cables and towers of the O Line. When the orangutans had access to their outdoor yards and therefore the O Line, they spent 39.1% of their time outside resting (see Figure 1.1), 21.7% resting on the O Line’s towers or cables

and 17.4% resting on the ground. Actually moving on the O Line, i.e. climbing towers and moving above, below or walking along the cables, took up 10.28% of their outdoor activity budget. Within their O Line-only activities, the orangutans rested on the towers and cables 61.6%, traveled along the cables by walking 9.5%, climbed Towers 1 and 8 in the yards 8.5%, traveled above the cables 5.9%, and traveled below the cables 4% (see Figure 1.2). According to ad lib data, we observed 42 instances of non-climbing hose use and we observed 13 instances of non-climbing net use (the net was installed on 23 June 23 2009 on Tower 1 in the Great Ape House yard). 28% of the days we observed the orangutans on the O Line, they ended their day at Think Tank and 42% of the time at the Great Ape

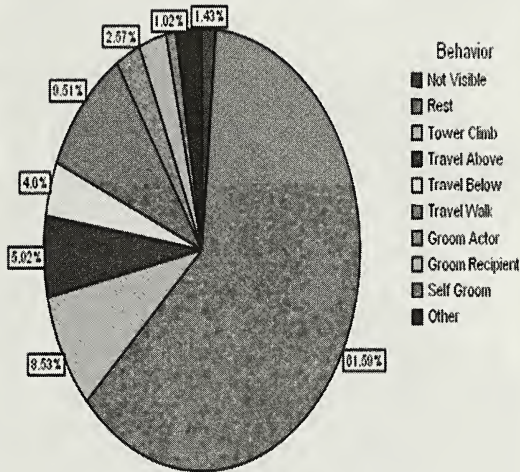


Figure 1.2

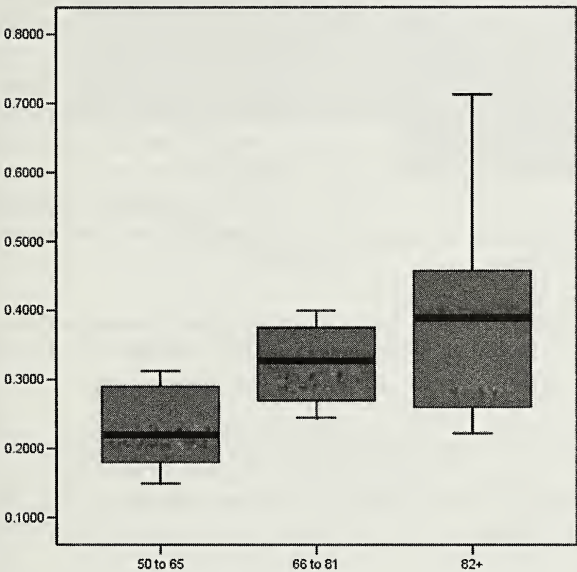


Figure 1.3

House (with 33% not recorded). The orangutans spent significantly less time on the O Line in temperatures below 65°F [18.33°C] ($p = 0.02$) as indicated in Figure 1.3. There was no significant difference reported in O Line use at different crowd sizes.

Discussion

The National Zoo's O Line dramatically expands where the zoo's orangutans can go and how they can move. They spend over 10% of their outdoor time in motion on the exhibit's towers and cables and over 20% of their time resting on them. When traveling along the O Line, they use a variety of locomotor patterns, predominantly moving below, above and walking along the cables, movements they would

otherwise not practice. Although the adult male brachiates only 0.5% of the time he is on the O Line, the fact that he is able to practice this natural movement at all is remarkable in a captive environment, as well as incredible for visitors to watch. The O Line enables the orangutans to spend the night in an entirely different building, Think Tank, expanding their habitat and taking their control of their environment to a whole new level.

The O Line structure also is a form of enrichment when the orangutans are not traveling. Ad lib data suggests that holding and hanging from the hoses connecting the towers to the yards is frequent. In addition, the fact that the primary O Line behavior is resting in towers and on cables indicates that the structure is not just a means to a destination, but an alternate seat or a spot to check out the zoo visitors below.



NZP visitors look skyward to observe the zoo's orangutans negotiating the O Line between the Great Ape House and the Think Tank.

Although the orangutans traveled on the O Line in a range of spring and summer temperatures, they traveled less in colder temperatures (below 65 degrees), indicating that zoos in cold climates may not benefit from a similar exhibit. Although we could find no significant results on the effect of crowd size based on this data set, anecdotally, keepers and volunteers have noticed that the adult male orangutan tends to brachiate when there is a crowd below to react excitedly, suggesting that the animals take a large crowd day as an opportunity to interact.

It should be noted that due to the nature of the exhibit and visitors' questions, data collection was interrupted frequently, especially in the summer months. In addition, because we were collecting group scans on individuals that can move as far as 490 feet away from each other if one is in the Great Ape House yard and one is in the Think Tank yard, getting a complete scan can sometimes be challenging or impossible.

Other zoos should take a cue from this remarkable exhibit that has been beneficial to the animals and a great attraction for the public.

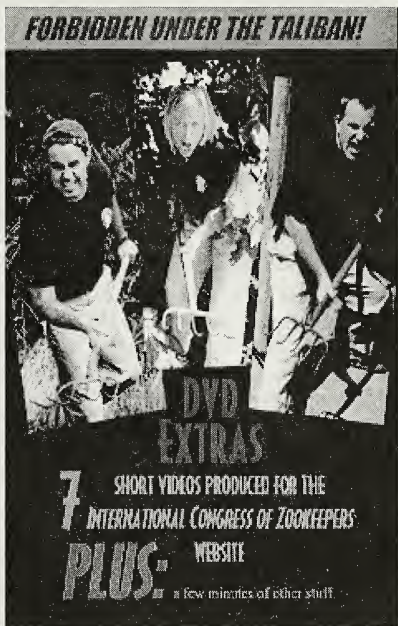
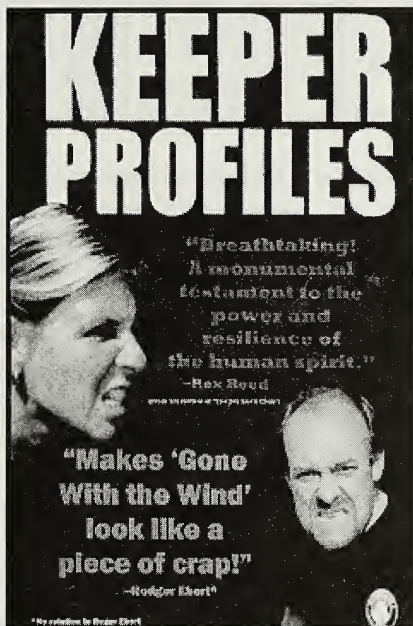
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Amanda Bania, Erika Bauer and Lisa Stevens for their help in developing this project. Thank you to Bridget Stewart for her help with data collection. Thank you also to the rest of the Ape House staff: Erin Stromberg, Carla Estocsin, Becky Malinsky, Mary Charlton, KC Braesch, Heather Harl, Laurie Thompson and Nicole Meese.

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(Photos provided by the Authors)

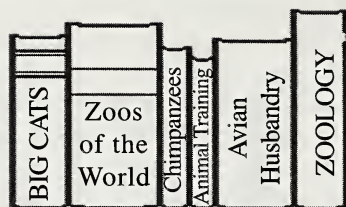
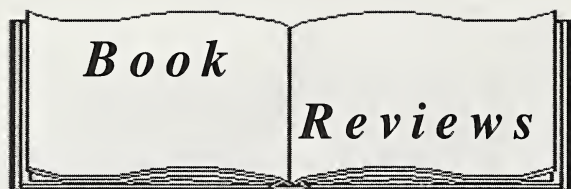


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NEW BOOK - Amphibian Biology Volume Eight Features AMPHIBIAN DECLINES

The latest volume of the Series "Amphibian Biology" has just been published. It is Volume 8 (Amphibian Decline), co-edited by Harold Heatwole and John W. Wilkinson.

The 330-page book contains twelve dynamic chapters related to amphibian decline as follows: Viral and Bacterial diseases of amphibians; Fungal diseases; Factors affecting Interspecific variation in susceptibility to disease; Digenetic Trematodes and their relationship to amphibian declines and deformities; Amphibian Malformations; Ultra Violet-B Radiation; Pollution; Impact of Reactive Nitrogen; Evaluating the Impact of Pesticides; Endocrine disrupting chemicals; Role of Petrochemicals and heavy metals; Acidification and its affects; and Climatic Change.

Previous volumes in the series were: Volume 1 - The Integument (co-editors G. Barthalmus and A. Heatwole) 1994. Volume 2 - Social Behaviour (co-editor B. K. Sullivan) 1995. Volume 3 - Sensory Perception (co-editor E. M. Dawley) 1998. Volume 4 - Palaeontology (co-editor R. L. Carroll) 2000. Volume 5 - Osteology (co-editor M. Davies) 2003. Volume 6 - Endocrinology 2005. Volume 7 - Systematics (co-edited by Michael Tyler).

There will be about 12 more volumes. Two are now in progress: Volume 9 Development of Amphibians co-edited by H. Heatwole and B. Judge, and Volume 10 Biomechanics of Amphibians co-edited by H. Heatwole and D. Wake. Anyone with an interest in contributing to either Volume 9 or volume 10 should contact

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For greater accuracy, comprehension, and ease of use, this book uses the traditional, standardized common names for North American species maintained by Collins & Taggart (2009. Standard Common and Current Scientific Names for North American Amphibians, Turtles, Reptiles, and Crocodilians. Sixth Edition), published by The Center for North American Herpetology (available gratis as a pdf at the CNAH web site), and updated daily online, the only such listing available online worldwide.

Conservation/Legislative Update

Column Coordinators: Becky Richendollar, North Carolina Zoo
and Greg McKinney, Philadelphia PA

This month's column was put together by
column co-coordinator Becky Richendollar



Last Attempt to Save Northern White Rhinos - Four northern white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) were moved from a zoo in the Czech Republic to a sanctuary in Kenya in a last chance effort to save the species from extinction. The northern white rhino is believed to be extinct in the wild and only 8 individuals remain in captivity worldwide. Four of these individuals were relocated late last year in the "Last Chance to Survive" project. The four, two males and two females, moved from Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic to the Ol Pejeta reserve in central Kenya.

The idea behind the project is to give the animals the most natural situation possible to encourage them to reproduce. Zoo director Dana Holeckova said, "We plan to give the remaining individuals with breeding potential their last chance of normal and regular reproduction in a secure location in the wild."

However, some experts believe that the move comes too late to help the species. "It makes no sense to move them at this point in time. It's way too little, too late," said Randy Rieches, curator of mammals for the San Diego Wild Animal Park, which has two northern whites. "That's based on a lot of knowledge, a lot of husbandry and certainly a lot of reproductive background." Some experts believe that the money being used to fund this project would better be used to help the other endangered rhino species.

The rhinos, including wild born 38-year-old male Sudan seemed to be settling in well at the sanctuary.
Source: The Associated Press, December 21, 2009

Tragedy in Chinese Zoos Due to Underfed Animals - Late last year, zoo keeper Ming was eaten by an African Lion (*Panthera leo*) while he was sweeping the animal's enclosure at Nanhai Park in Henan's Zhumadian City. Earlier in the same month, keeper Xie Jian was killed while feeding a black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) at Songyang Park in Dengfeng City.

In both instances, the zoo blamed human error for the attacks, saying the keepers were not following proper protocol. However, the victims' families refuse to believe that is the case. Police say the animals at the two zoos were hungry, and that was what prompted the attacks. Zoo officials do not deny that their animals are hungry, saying they are unable to afford the amount of food necessary to feed the animals at the parks.

Animal welfare is a problem throughout China's more than 200 zoos. While the country's zoos are supposed to receive government assistance, only the zoos in large cities such as Beijing and Shanghai benefit from government money. "Privately run zoos always face difficulties. Their animals are often living in poor conditions and endure the whippings, and many are thin and weak with disease," said Zhu Ke, of the Animals Asia Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Hong Kong. He went on to say that keeper attacks at these small, private zoos are almost always because the animals are hungry. The solution, he says, is for the Chinese government to take over the private zoos that are in the worst shape. *Source: www.chinaview.cn, January 9, 2010*

Fishermen Angry Over Red Snapper Ban - Early this year a ban on fishing Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) was put into effect in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Federal agencies

and environmental groups have found that the red snapper numbers have dwindled and are using the ban to allow the fish's population to rebound. The National Marine Fisheries Service estimates that the red snapper population is only 3% of what it was just 60 years ago.

Red snapper are one of the most popular saltwater fish and they are usually around two feet long and weigh in at six to seven pounds. The red snapper can live to be 50 years old and weigh 20 lbs., but animals of that age and size are very rare. This, scientists say, is just further proof that the ban is necessary.

Residents of coastal communities in these areas are concerned about the impact the ban will have on the local economy. Recreational fishing brings in thousands of tourist dollars every year, and residents face the possibility that this revenue source could dry up. The federal ban is in place for six months, at which time it may be renewed. *Source: ENN, January 6, 2010*

Arctic Pipeline Closer to Becoming a Reality - A review panel has decided that Canada's Mackenzie pipeline in Canada's arctic should be given the green light, provided that several conditions are followed. The conditions vary, and include requiring companies to monitor the impacts of the pipeline on grizzly bear dens and holding the gas companies responsible for providing adequate drug and alcohol treatment programs in the area surrounding the pipeline.

The Joint Review Panel laid out 176 such conditions. They believe the Mackenzie pipeline will bring much needed economic development to Canada's northern territories, and that ecological impact will be mitigated by the above mentioned conditions.

The pipeline would carry at least 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas a day to the Alberta border from fields in the Mackenzie Delta near the Beaufort Sea. In Alberta, the gas could be routed to numerous markets in Canada and the United States.

Canada's National Energy Board will make the final decision about whether or not the pipeline project can move forward. They will make that decision in September of 2010, using the Joint Review Panel's report to determine the pipeline's future. *Source: ENN, January 6, 2010*

One Step Closer to Understanding Devil Disease - In late December, a new article was released



Tasmanian Devil
(Photo: StockExchange)

about the Devil Facial Tumor Disease, the cancer that has been decimating the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) population since 1996. The study, published in the journal Science, found that the disease originates from cells that protect nerve fibers, called Schwann cells.

The study also found that the disease is highly contagious, and passes from one devil to another through physical contact. Scientists report that the Tasmanian Devil is rapidly declining, having lost 60% of its population in the last decade. Without help, the devils could be extinct within 50 years because of this horrendous disease.

This new study creates some hope as understanding the tumors' genetic makeup may help lead to a cure for the disease. *Source: Discovery News, December 31, 2009*

Conservationist's Boat Sinks After Clash with Whalers - Early this year, a conservation group lost one of their boats after a run-in with Japanese Whalers. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's ship, the *Ady Gil*, had its bow sheared off in Antarctica after a collision with a Japanese

Whaler vessel. All of the crew members aboard were safely taken to another of the group's boats.

In recent years, altercations between the Sea Shepherds and the whaling vessels have escalated, with the conservation group trying to convince the whalers to cease their activities. Stink bombs, high-pressure water hoses, and ropes intended to entangle propellers are used by both sides to try and interfere with the other groups' boats. This seems to be the first time a collision has taken place. Both sides blame the other for the collision, and Glenn Inwood, a New Zealand-based spokesman for the Institute of Cetacean Research, the Japanese government-linked body that carries out the hunt, said that video shows the Sea Shepherd boat coming towards the whaling ship right before the impact. The Sea Shepherd Society first unveiled the boat in fall of 2009, a high-powered speedboat that was to be used to intercept and block Japanese harpoon vessels. *Source: Discovery News, January 6, 2010*

San Francisco Pier Missing Usual Residents - Pier 39 in San Francisco, California has long been known for its sea lion population. First showing up in 1989 to haul out on the docks at pier 39, the sea lions have spent the last twenty years in the spot, becoming a major tourist attraction for the city. In late December of 2009, the animals, for the most part, disappeared. A small handful of young sea lions stayed at the pier, but the sight is not what it once was.



Sea Lions, common on Pier 39

(Photo: StockExchange)

While some residents and tourists are concerned, animal experts are not. "Most likely, they left chasing a food source," said Jeff Boehm, executive director of the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, which runs an information center and gift shop at Pier 39. "It's probably what kept them here in the first place." Boehm went on to say that, by spring, the animals will "probably be back". *Source: Discovery News, December 30, 2009*

India's Last Dancing Bear Saved - A British wildlife charity says it has rescued India's last dancing bear from a life of neglect and torture with help from Daily Telegraph readers. The bear and its owner, an impoverished Kalandar nomad, were discovered in southern India, and persuaded to travel to a sanctuary where the bear will be treated for facial and dental injuries and the owner retrained as a wildlife park keeper. His agreement to abandon bear dancing marked the end of a five-year campaign in which more than 600 bears were rescued throughout India.

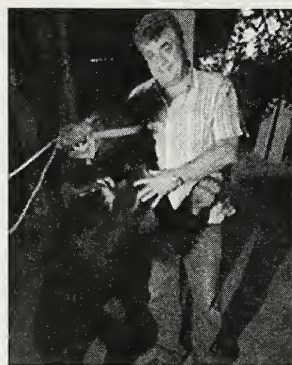
International Animal Rescue's British chief executive Alan Knight said he and his colleagues were overjoyed to have played a part in ending the "cruel practice". He said it had been possible by the generous response of Daily Telegraph readers who had donated thousands of pounds to the project after reading about it.. It told the story of a British dentist travelling to India to perform root canal treatment on rescued dancing bears whose teeth had been smashed with iron bars. The Indian sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*) had also had several holes seared into their noses to allow their keepers to tether them with rough ropes.

The animals were in great pain, suffering from skin and mouth infections and psychologically damaged after years of being burned and beaten as part of their 'training' to perform dance routines. Even after they are rescued, some continue to make 'weaving' movements if they hear whistling sounds. Most of the bears had been trained to perform specific dances to individual tunes, like pretending to strum a guitar.

"The article was seen by John Laing of the construction group, who called his office and told them to get in contact with us. Their [charitable] Rufford Fund gave us £150,000. Telegraph readers sent in another £30,000, which enabled us to get the thing started and it has progressed from there. We're

now financing the project with half a million pounds per year,” said Knight.

The money funded the creation of the 40-acre Banarghatta Biological Park near Bangalore, where the bears run free, hide in caves and learn to behave once as normal jungle animals again. Funding has also helped pay the compensation packages which have persuaded their poor Muslim owners to give up what had been a way of life for their nomadic caste for generations. Under the rescue scheme, the Kalandars are offered a retraining and rehabilitation package worth £650, to help them start new lives with alternative careers and businesses. Some have been given grants to buy motorbikes to become travelling salesmen, others have been to college to learn software programmes, or tailoring skills. The charity has bought sewing machines, knife grinders, and in one case helped a Kalandar start a new business as a spice dealer selling tiny packets of spices door to door in poor villages.



IAR Executive Director Alan Knight with rescued bear. (Photo: IAR)

“[The donations] gave us the impetus to continue. It’s so nice when people give money, and that would not have happened without the Telegraph. Now we have to feed them and keep them in the luxury they’ve become used to for the next 20 years,” said Knight. Source: *Telegraph.co.uk* 12/18/09

Kenya Breaks Ranks with Tanzania on Ivory Trade - Kenya will campaign for a total ban on ivory trade at an international meeting on wildlife conservation scheduled for March, as its herds of elephants continue to be endangered by poaching.

The position is likely to anger Tanzania which is pushing for a new trading window to allow it to sell its ivory stockpile to fund conservation measures. Other countries likely to team up with Tanzania include Zambia, which has put up a similar petition while previous beneficiaries; Botswana, Namibia, south Africa and Zimbabwe are quiet.

Since the drive to save the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) picked up in 1980s, Kenya has been playing a lead role in calling for a total ban and dramatized its wish by burning its stockpile worth millions of shillings in the Nairobi National Park.

The Qatar Conference is the 15th such meeting of the parties that have signed the Convention on International Traded in International Species (CITES). “We oppose any trade in endangered species especially elephant and rhino tasks,” said Julius Kipng’etich, the Director of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). He said the opening up of a small window could lead to increased poaching in the region. But while the country has remained firm that it will oppose the lifting of the ban imposed in 2007, Zambia and Tanzania have asked for an exemption to the 1989 ban on ivory trade, which was put in place to protect the African elephant and rhino, whose population was decreasing due to increased poaching. But Kenya argues that giving a window to make such sales would only whet the market’s appetites increasing poaching in the region.

Wildlife minister Noah Wekesa recently said Kenya was not consulted by Tanzania and yet the two countries share national parks like Amboseli and Mt Kilimanjaro. Due to a similar eco-system, Kenya was likely to lose more rhinos and elephants to poachers, he said when he received four rhinos from Europe recently.

Already Kenya has witnessed increased poaching activities of the two animals with 145 elephants being poached in 2008 compared to 47 in 2007. In 2009 the country lost over 200 elephants. Kenya saw its elephant population drop from 168,000 in 1969 to only 16,000 in 1989 due to poaching

activities but has managed to increase the population to 35,000 since the ban, while the rhino population stands at just over 600 compared to 400 in 1989.

Tanzania and Zambia submitted proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II submitted in November 2009. Both countries insist on a one-off sale of its ivory stock pile, excluding seized ivory and that of unknown origin, with the proceeds from the trade being used exclusively for elephant and community conservation as well as for development programs. Tanzania wants to sell 89,848 Kilograms of its stockpile while Zambia is looking at 21,692 kilograms as well as raw hides. These proposals have met resistance from Kenya as well as Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

The current diverging views reflect a similar debate that played out during the last CITES conference in June 2007 when Southern African countries — South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana — wanted the ban lifted. *Source: Business Daily, 1/5/10 <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539552/836638/-/6a2xa1/-/>*

And in a Related Story...

CITES May Expel Zimbabwe Due to Rhino Losses, Rampant Wildlife Poaching - After losing about 26% of its rhino population to poachers, Zimbabwe now faces expulsion from the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). As a consequence of losing nearly 200 rhinos to rampant poaching over the last three years, Zimbabwe reportedly has six months to comply with CITES - or face expulsion.

Consequences for escalating rhino killings in Zimbabwe have been tragically lacking, as it is widely believed that high-ranking government officials and politicians are connected to organized poaching gangs, funded by demand for rhino horn in China and Vietnam. While a recent report declared Zimbabwe and South Africa the epicenter of the rhino poaching crisis, it was noted that the prosecution rate in Zimbabwe is suspiciously low - less than 3%. According to *The Zimbabwe Times*, government officials are suspected in the unchecked poaching which has been occurring throughout the country's wildlife sanctuaries.

Poaching is allegedly rampant in the Gonarezhou and Hwange National Parks, where it is believed that senior Zanu-PF politicians and government officials are indiscriminately killing wildlife. In addition to uncontrolled poaching, Zimbabwe's wildlife sanctuaries have been invaded by people displaced by the current government. However the country is failing to control poaching activities due to, among other things, the presence of farm invaders who moved into the sanctuaries during the height of farm invasion with the tacit approval of President Robert Mugabe's government.

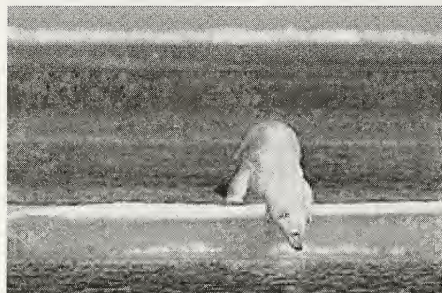
In Gonarezhou national park about 720 families from the Chitsa clan have invaded the extensive park. They have refused to vacate the park, arguing that they are just repossessing their land. Despite growing evidence to the contrary, Zimbabwe's director of Parks and Wildlife Management Authority denies that government officials are involved in the poaching surge. *Source: The Zimbabwe Times 12/15/09*

Polar Bears Changing Habitat in Response to Sea Ice Conditions - A long-term study showing the changes in habitat associations of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) in response to sea ice conditions in the southern Beaufort Sea has implications for polar bear management in Alaska.

Karyn Rode, a polar bear biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska and one of the study's authors, says data collected between 1979 and 2005 show that polar bears in the region are occurring more frequently on land and in open water and less frequently on ice during the fall. This means there are increased chances for human/bear interaction. The paper was published in the December issue of *Arctic -- the journal of the Arctic Institute of North America*.

Polar bears were observed over the 27-year period by U.S. government Minerals Management Services staff as part of the fall bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) aerial survey conducted annually in the southern Beaufort Sea. Ice conditions were also recorded. Data showed that as ice conditions changed, bears were being found on different habitats. Between 1979 and 1987, 12% of bear sightings were associated with no ice. Between 1997 and 2005 however, 90% of bear sightings were associated with no ice.

“When bears were seen, they were more often seen in open water and on land than on sea ice. At the



With shrinking ice flows, polar bears are spending more time on land. (Photo: Arctic Photos)

same time, changes were observed in ice, suggesting that these observations are connected,” says Rode. In addition, the number of bears sighted steadily increased from 138 bears in the years 1979-1987, to 271 bears between 1988 and 1996, and finally to 468 bears between 1997 and 2005. Rode warns that this study was not designed to estimate the number of bears using the nearshore area. Data were drawn from studies created to track bowhead whale migration routes, not polar bear populations. Therefore, it should not be concluded that more bears are occurring in the nearshore waters off the Southern Beaufort Sea coast.

However, Rode states that “Our results do suggest that bears that use the nearshore area are more likely to occur on land in recent years because their preferred habitat, sea ice, is unavailable. “This is one of the few data sets available over such a long time frame. It shows there has been a shift in habitat use,” she says. In the Beaufort Sea region, there was less ice in 2005 than when the study period began in 1979. In general, freeze up is later and spring melt comes earlier with measurements showing since 1979 the summer melt period has increased by 13 days per decade. This is one reason for the region’s rapid retreat of multi-year ice, which provides a thicker, more stable platform for hunting and denning.

This work is helpful in highlighting the need to proactively develop programs to manage bear-human interactions in coastal areas. Bear-human interactions in Native villages and with industry in Alaska have been on the rise in recent years. This media release is part of the Promotion of Arctic Science, an Arctic Institute of North America project made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year.

The mission of the Arctic Institute of North America at the University of Calgary is to advance the study of the North American and circumpolar Arctic and to acquire, preserve and disseminate information on physical, environmental and social conditions in the North. More information can be found at www.arctic.ucalgary.ca Source: *Science News.com* 1/7/10

Transitions:

Arrived:

Giraffe, December 8, 2009, Binder Park Zoo

African Shoebill Stork, December 25, 2009, Lowry Park Zoo

White-cheeked gibbon, December 27, 2009, Minnesota Zoo

Passed:

Gorilla Donna (42 years old), December 14, 2009, North Carolina Zoo

Gorilla Katie (36 years old), December 17, 2009, North Carolina Zoo

African Elephant Christy (29 years old), December 22, 2009, Brookfield Zoo

Japanese Macaque Baldy (35 years old), December 22, 2009, Blank Park Zoo

Sumatran Tiger Besar (18 years old), December 29, 2009, Miller Park Zoo

Giraffe Morefu (24 years old), December 30, 2009, Birmingham Zoo

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